

To: R8EISC[R8EISC@epa.gov]
From: Marsh, Rene
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 5:57:36 PM
Subject: Re: CNN INQUIRY- TIMELY

Thank you. CNN is aware of the press conference. Is it possible to get someone to answer the below questions for me? As my deadline is well before the presser?
Some of these details have already been reported by other publication but we are looking to get confirmation for ourselves.

Thank you

From: R8EISC
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 1:55 PM
To: Marsh Rene
Cc: R8EISC
Subject: Re: CNN INQUIRY- TIMELY

Email: press@epa.gov

Aug. 12, 2015

2:00 PM MDT: EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Holding Media Availability in Durango, CO

DURANGO, CO - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will visit Durango, CO today to inspect response efforts relating to the release of waste water from Gold King mine, and meet with state, local and tribal officials and community members. McCarthy will hold a media availability in Durango for credentialed news media only about the response. Tomorrow, Administrator McCarthy will visit the response efforts in Farmington, NM. More details about the visit will be released as they become available.

WHEN: 2:00 PM MTN

WHO: EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

WHAT: Administrator McCarthy media availability on the unified response to the Gold King Mine incident.

WHERE: Outside Gold King Mine Unified Command Center

2500 Main. Ave.
Durango, CO 81301

NOTE: The media availability in Durango will take the place of today's media conference call.

From: Marsh, Rene <Rene.Marsh@turner.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:00 PM

To: R8EISC

Subject: CNN INQUIRY- TIMELY

Hello,

I am a correspondent with CNN covering the toxic spill in Colorado. I have some questions I'm looking to get an answer to before my deadline today 230p et. The administrator's presser will be well past my deadline. I hope you can assist me in answering these questions. I am trying to get a better understanding of the situation prior to the breach.

1) I've been told by non-profit group Earth Work Action that the mine in Colorado where the leak occurred has been leaking acid mine drainage at a rate of about 50-250 gallons a minute for years, along with 3 other mines in the area.

Is that your understanding?

2)The EPA contractors were attempting to put a pipe into the adit (mine opening) in order to collect the water and prevent it from continuing to pollute Cement Creek and the Animas River. Is that a correct characterization? I'd like to understand more about what happens during that process – what kind of equipment was used and why? What caused the leak? Was there a misjudgment of how much water had built up and the pressure?

3)Is it true that the EPA had wanted for years to designate the area a superfund site but received much opposition from community leaders? Can the EPA designate a site a superfund area without support from a community?

4)I'm also wondering if the type of mining pollution that was created by this particular mine is common with all mines.

5)Earth Work Action tells me that the price to clean up these sites has been estimated by the EPA at \$50 billion, and there is no steady funding source, leaving the EPA, states and local governments to cobble together resources for clean-up. Is that true?

6)The advocacy group also claims that 40% of the streams in the headwaters of western watersheds have been polluted by hardrock mining. Is that true? Is there more context needed here? Is there some amount of pollution that's allowable ie safe?

Many thanks,

Rene Marsh

CNN

